

# THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

FRANK A. MUNSEY.

## Conte Off for Washington!

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have been compelled to cut down the estimates submitted to Congress to cover the needs of the National Capital. Their work of pruning the appropriations has not been a pleasant one, and has required that something be sacrificed.

It is most unfortunate that at this time Washington is to be subjected to a spirit of economy which is discouraging to the new progressive spirit. Expansion without money is a mere fantasy. Yet we are hopeful that out of the existing condition of Congressional lukewarmness toward local development will come a reactionary force.

Nothing will stimulate a project like opposition. When men have to fight for anything, their pugnacity takes on a color that means something. The signs of the times indicate that Washingtonians must take off their coats, even if they do not have to double up their fists.

As a matter of fact, the Filipino revolutionist should not be unduly encouraged by the success of his brother in South America. The wild man of the archipelago is "up against" a game where brass bands and military feathers do not count.

## Kipling's Poetic Bombshell.

Rudyard Kipling's muse is now the most conspicuous figure in England. She is brandishing a club which may become a lever and overturn a Ministry. She has struck right and left, and the way in which John Bull is nursing his black and blue spots is a living testimonial to her muscular development.

In fact, the Kipling muse has caused a furore that is more spectacular than poetic. Some will dub her a Joan of Arc; others will call her a virago.

Along with many other Englishmen, Lord Rosebery not excepted, Mr. Kipling has appreciated the fact that the persistent conflict in South Africa has produced a crisis. The war enterprise of the Dark Continent has an insatiable maw for the English pound. Enough treasure to found an empire has been sacrificed to Mars. Victory over the Dutch recalcitrants may be nearer than it was, but in the opinion of the observing world, it is still very far off.

Certain classes in the immediate domain of King Edward have pursued the even tenor of their way, allowing certain other classes to bear the burden of the country's cause, and go down to death or crippling as the exponents of British patriotism. The fight has been desperate and long. The nonchalant official English has aroused Mr. Kipling. The result is a few verses, pointed like the scalpel and reeking with an irritant that smarters after the penetration.

Rudyard Kipling, swinging his metre like a broadsword, urges Great Britain to the policy of conscription. He apparently believes that by compulsory military service alone will the principles of Albion be upheld and her banners preserved. He has assaulted wealthy indolence and affluent indifference with his genius, and, almost like the skeleton at the feast, has scattered consternation among those to whom silken ease has been a birth-right.

The stopped ear has heard his clarion call. Insolent disregard has been aroused to an appreciation of the stubborn reality. Lazy egotism has been stayed until it winces. The nation has been awakened from gilded optimism to a realization that something must be done, and that somebody must do it.

Whether Rudyard Kipling's desperate remedy will furnish the shears of war and the muscle of the battlefield is a question. Conscription has ever been a last resort in properly balanced nations. But, coming so soon after Lord Rosebery's Chesterfield speech, in which he voiced the truth and uttered the warning, the Kipling poem must aid in giving an impetus to some force in England that will build a new policy; that will electrify the national spirit; that will save the country from a foe more formidable than the Boers—an indolent conservatism that produces paralysis and leads to dissolution.

The inference that Congressmen do not care their money will probably not lead to the introduction of a bill to decrease their salaries.

Important political questions of a technical nature, to determine whether Senator Foraker should be a Senator, have secured the favor of the legislative branch in Ohio.

## Memorandum of Decision?

Eager to recover all they can from the wreck, the survivors of the Panama Canal fiasco have lured the American Ishmanian canal project. It is believed that they are ready to dispose of their holdings at a reasonable figure, perhaps one calculated to save the United States time and money in piercing the isthmus.

None who realize the drift of public opinion will deny that American sentiment for a canal is overwhelming. It has been manifested in Congress, as elsewhere. The American canal, after the report of Admiral Trenchard's commission in favor of the Nicaragua route, had decided that it was the preferable one.

The offer of the Panama ditch, however, has naturally appealed to the business side of the Government and the people. If it will result in the expenditure of less money and the saving of time, it is a proposition to

be well considered, aside from the possibility that, abandoned by America, the canal plan may fall into the hands of private speculators, who will push it to completion and create a dangerous rival to the projected American waterway.

It is said that President Roosevelt will consider the matter in a special message to the Congress. Its importance would seem to warrant the advice of the Executive. The views of Mr. Roosevelt would certainly help to clear the atmosphere, which has been suddenly beclouded by the proposition from Paris.

While delays are to be avoided in the arrangements for the construction of a purely American ship thoroughfare across the isthmus, there is ample cause for hesitation in the present instance when two pathways, each having its special advantage, and leading to the same object, have been pointed out.

## Shattering Conservatism.

Wonders will never cease. Recently we had the practical application of the wireless telegraph, and now we are informed that the Dowager Empress of China, that female incarnation of marionette conservatism, will soon receive the ladies of the foreign diplomatic corps.

This is more of a surprise when it is considered that the feminine boss of the Celestial hordes has been so persistently dodging imaginary missiles supposed to have been thrown by the horned foreigners. The silent Emperor, too, has obediently dodged with the Dowager, and seemed to be in a state of mortal terror caused by indignation.

But the sun is apparently rising in China. Perhaps a few beams have crept in through the open door, along with the armed representatives of retribution and civilization.

Let us hope that the yellow dragon, which thus far has not been considered a musical bird, will find that he has a moderately good voice, and that he will later be able to participate in the choruses when the Concert of the Powers renders the anthem of real peace.

A well-known writer has been comparing President Roosevelt and the Kaiser. The German Emperor should appreciate the compliment.

New York is finding out that reform is not a ready-made garment; it has to be fitted.

The police magistrates' war in Brooklyn certainly ought to be dramatized.

Although extreme quiet prevails in Albany County, New York, David B. Hill is probably as eager to get out of that "furrow" as Lord Rosebery.

John Bull makes a decidedly interesting somnambulist, but there is considerable trepidation lest he fall to awaken before he walks off the roof.

There is no verification of the rumor that the Sick Man of Europe has composed another bit of ragtime for the Concert of the Powers.

Judging from a certain physiological revolution concerning the new Secretary of the Treasury, he will be decidedly flustered when he takes a stand on any of the financial questions to come before him.

Mr. Croker's Jersey golf practice is probably an indication of an early helga to Wintage.

As a matter of fact, the "brown man's burden" is his unyielding fanaticism.

## CURRENT PRESS COMMENT.

### Training School for Financiers.

Salt Lake Tribune—Governor Shaw has been a decided Methodist for over twenty years, and undoubtedly owes his skill as a financier to his experience in raising the money to pay the minister.

### Human Nature.

Indianapolis News—If wishes were horses, we'd all want automobiles.

### In Cold Storage.

Chicago News—When the new line of refrigerated steamers between this country and England is started it will be possible to bring over Alfred Austin's poems without having the insurance rates increased.

### Pitched in Too High a Key.

Syracuse Herald—Young married couples who start out on the assumption that life is to be one grand sweet song are likely to find themselves suffering from sore throat before many weeks have passed.

### A Warning Example.

Millwaukee Sentinel—Webster Davis predicts that President Roosevelt will be nominated next time and defeated by Republicans. There was Webster Davis and there will continue to be a Webster Davis. It is better so.

### Crushed Again.

The Tampa State Journal—The Venezuelan revolution is crushed again. This is believed to be the first crushing it has received this year—at least it is the first one recorded.

### In a Prohibition State.

Philadelphia Item—Does prohibition prohibit? The sheriff of Cumberland County, Maine, of which Portland is the leading city, reports that last year he made 67 arrests for the sale of liquor, seized 9,235 gallons of the stuff, and collected from the convicted \$2,425 in fines, and yet Maine is supposed to be a State where prohibition is strictly enforced.

### British Industry in Germany.

The latest British enterprise to succeed in Germany is that of plain pudding making. The Germans themselves cannot make them, but an English woman has started a shop in Berlin for the supply of these delectable delicacies. The Kaiser is much interested, and has ordered several for the royal household at Potsdam.

## PERSONAL.

### Why Father Ducey was Pained.

Rev. Thomas J. Ducey, the eminent Catholic priest who, as pastor of St. Louis, has been a great force in New York, not only an ecclesiastic, but as a public-spirited citizen with a lively interest in current affairs, was welcomed by friends at the New Willard last evening. While chatting in his usual friendly way, a stranger came up and enquired of Father Ducey if he were not Senator Gorman of Maryland.

Father Ducey shook his head slowly and a pained look came over his features. "No," said he, "I do not resemble Senator Gorman. The man who is called a Senator," said he, "is a Catholic priest, apologized, and hurried away."

Then Father Ducey jocularly remarked that we had fallen upon evil times when it was possible for ecclesiastics and politicians to be confounded. He had never been a victim of such a mistake before, and wondered if the Senator had ever been taken for a Catholic priest.

### The Slander of President Steyn.

"During my stay in South Africa I became exceedingly well acquainted with President Steyn of the Orange Free State and with several of the leading men who are fighting for Boer independence," said Mr. Albert G. Robinson, the noted war correspondent and political economist, last night at the Arlington.

"It has been charged that Steyn was bought by Kruger's gold and made a sacrificial offering of his country by his alliance with the Transvaal. In my opinion this is a slander of the basest sort. The villain who bartered the lives of his fellow Boers for coin does not share the hardships and dangers of the Boer fight. He has been facing the Briton with the same courage that all his people have shown—a courage that challenges the admiration of the world."

"The truth is that under the terms of the alliance between the two states the Orange Free State could not in honor refuse to co-operate with the South African Republic."

"While I am satisfied of the injustice of the charge as waged by the English, I believe that in the end the Boers will have to give up the fight. They are simply too overwhelmed, and it isn't in the nature of things that they can go on fighting indefinitely. The cost to England is something frightful, but the cost to the Empire is even more so."

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A jurist of engaging manners and courtly bearing is Judge Edmund Wadsworth, Jr., who, before his appointment to the Federal bench, was one of the recognized leaders of Republicanism in Virginia.

"I always faulted the Democrats as strenuously as I knew how," said the judge at the New Willard last evening. "But I never quarreled, not even with Hon. George D. Wise when we were opposing candidates for Congress."

"There is one thing," he continued, "that the people of Richmond would appreciate highly, and that is a quicker railway connection with Washington. Instead of taking three and a half hours to get to the National Capital, the journey should not consume over two and a half hours. Men of affairs, to whom time is precious, can all afford to lose an hour in these days when work is performed at a sixty-miles-an-hour rate."

"We have, however, between Richmond and Norfolk a magnificent time schedule. A citizen of either town can breakfast at home, spend the day at one place or the other, and return in time to dine with his family the same evening. This arrangement ought to be effected as between Washington and Richmond, even if it necessitated the laying of a double track on the part of the railroad company."

Governor Otero Not Worried.

"Asked at the Shoreham concerning the fight being made to prevent his confirmation by the Senate, Gov. M. A. Otero of New Mexico answered:

"I am not greatly worried at the opposition to my confirmation. In this matter I have the satisfaction of knowing that about all the good people of the Territory are with me. The hostility of those who oppose me is really a compliment. When a public official is conscious of the support of the best element of his people there is no reason to worry."

Indianapolis Abstract of the Times.

"Indianapolis will soon be able to boast of a magnificent new hotel," remarked Mr. F. M. Andrews, of Dayton, Ohio, last night at the Riggs. Mr. Andrews is the architect who designed the new hotel.

"The new structure, which bears the name of the Clarendon, is a grandiose old Bates House, so changed and reconstructed that people would never know it in the transformation. The cost of the new hotel will reach \$1,000,000."

"From the ruins of the ancient Bates House, President Lincoln spoke in 1860. For years it was the central gathering place of all Indiana's noted political leaders. But it wasn't long that the demands of the times had to go."

"A city's greatness is easily gauged by the number and excellence of its hotels, and Indianapolis by such a test takes its proper place among the important centers of the nation."

The host and hostess received in the drawing room on one side of the wide hall. Mrs. Leighton wore black velvet, trimmed with ruche lace and diamonds.

They were assisted by Mrs. Leighton's sister, Miss Harman Foss, who wore pink crepe de chine, draped with white duchesse, and her jewels were also diamonds.

The house itself is a masterpiece of decoration, and the first glimpse into its interior was in fairy-like contrast to the wintry world without.

The great merriment in the drawing room and hall were draped with mink, festooned back with baskets of narcissus and roses. The guests were seated at long tables, and on the mantels were banks of American Beauty roses.

The walls of the parlors were sprayed with the soft, pinkish glow of the evening were the Ambassadors from Germany and France.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin V. Leighton held a large reception last night at their handsome old-fashioned home on Capitol Hill.

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## CUBANS, APPEAL TO PEOPLE.

### Ask Them to Influence Congressmen In Behalf of Duty Reduction.

An appeal to Congress for the passage of an act to reduce the duties on Cuban products in order to promote the prosperity of the island has been issued by the delegates of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce.

The delegates are now addressing the American people, asking them to appeal to their representatives in Congress to carry their plan into effect. The letter says in part:

"We know the needs and wishes of the Cuban people. They need access to the markets of the United States for the sale of their products. It is essential to their prosperity. They wish the sale of American products extended to Cuba. Under present conditions that is impossible."

"The reason is simple. Under a uniform tariff European products can be sold in Cuba for less than American products. Unless the United States secures a preferential tariff rate in Cuba in favor of American products American merchants will be driven from the field."

The act which the delegation is supporting provides that from and after January 1, 1902, Cuban molasses and raw sugar up to No. 16 of the Dutch standard shall be admitted into the United States free, and all other Cuban products upon the payment of one-half the rates of duties levied and collected under the tariff laws of the United States upon similar products of the most favored nation; provided, the people of Cuba consent that from and after the same date all products of the United States shall be admitted into Cuba upon the payment of one-half the rates of duty levied and collected under the tariff laws of Cuba upon similar products of the most favored nation.

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## EXTRADITION TREATY SIGNED.

### Long-Delayed Agreement Between United States and Denmark Arranged.

An extradition treaty was signed between the United States and Denmark yesterday in the reception room of the State Department by John Hay, Secretary of State, and Minister Constantin Brun, representing Denmark.

The treaty was initiated in the second administration of President Cleveland, but it was not completed at that time owing to opposition in the part of Denmark to extraditing her own citizens; that is, Denmark refused an extradition of one of her own citizens who may have committed a crime in the United States and returned to Denmark.

President Cleveland refused to make a treaty with such restrictions. Since that time a number of treaties have been struck with the objectionable clause, and Denmark, noting the fact, has been pressing for a new treaty.

## THE PENALTY TO BE DEATH.

### Bill Introduced for the Protection of the President's Life.

Representative Jenkins, after much thought, has prepared a bill for the protection of the lives of the President and Vice President of the United States and those in line of succession, such as the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, etc. The bill was introduced in the House yesterday and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The bill provides that every person, whether in the United States or in any other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, who maliciously strikes, stabs, wounds, poisons, or shoots at the President or Vice President of the United States shall suffer death. This provision also applies to any attempt on the life of the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, etc.

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